restoration and rehabilitation measures have been taken up on a national scale.

Declining Share of Agriculture in GDP

†895. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be plased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contribution of the agriculture sector in Gross Domestic Production is gradually declining;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this context;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in absence of agriculture policy, the uncertainty and lack of balance in Gross Domestic Production have also contributed to the declining contribution in agriculture;

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) by when Government is likely to declare the agriculture policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of the process of economic growth and development, the share of agriculture sector in GDP tends to decline.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Govenrment is implementing a number of programmes/schemes for the continued sustainable growth of the agriculture sector.

(e) The National Agriculture Policy is in the final stages of drafting.

Average Production of Crops in Assam

896. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average yield of major agricultural crops in Assam in the context of national average productivity;

(b) factors identified to be associated with low productivity and action plan finalised to recover the loss; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The average yield of major agricultural crops in Assam and the National average are given below for the year 1998-99.

(Kg/ha.)

	Assam	All-India
1. Rice	1329	1905
2. Coarse Cereals	667	1035
3. Pulses	566	661
4. Foodgrains	1278	1611
5. Oilseeds	591	940
6. Jute & Mesta	1528	1730

(b) and (c) Food crops are grown under a divers agro-climatic conditions which lead to fluctuations in production and productivity. The productivity is subject to influence of a number of biotic, abitic and other environmental factors including adoption of crops production technologies by farmers. To increase proudction and productivity of agricultural crops in Assam, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice Based Cropping System areas, Accelerated Maize Development Programme, Pulses Development Project and Special Jute Development Programme. Besides, Mini Kit Programme on rice, wheat, maize, pulses and oilseeds has also been taken up for popularisation of new high yielding varieties amongst farmers. Under these programmes/schemes, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. In addition, field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.